



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

August 9, 2005

ICE AGENTS ARREST FOUR AREA RESIDENTS AS PART OF OPERATION PREDATOR

Jacksonville, FL –Special agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have arrested four criminal alien sex offenders and child abusers today in Jacksonville, Florida. These actions are part of **Operation Predator**, a nationwide ICE initiative to locate and arrest foreign-born sex offenders and remove them from the United States. Those arrested have been convicted in state court for sex offenses against minors and will now face immigration removal proceedings.

The arrested individuals are identified as follows:

- A citizen of Romania who was a lawfully admitted permanent resident, convicted of lewd and lascivious battery on a child under the age of 16.
- A citizen of Mexico who was a lawfully admitted permanent resident, convicted of lewd and lascivious acts in the presence of a child under the age of 16.
- A citizen of Mexico who illegally entered the United States, convicted of lewd and lascivious battery on a child under the age of 16.
- A citizen of Lebanon who was a lawfully admitted permanent resident, convicted of lewd and lascivious battery on a child under the age of 16.

Three of the four individuals were arrested today in the Jacksonville area. The fourth individual was already in custody in Clay County and an Immigration Detainer was placed on him.

Unveiled on July 9, 2004 by the Department of Homeland Security, **Operation Predator** is a comprehensive enforcement initiative designed to protect children from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibility for a number of key homeland security priorities.